

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 EB-07 COME-00 PRS-01 SIL-01 LAB-04

CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01

CG-00 DLOS-06 OES-06 PA-01 SP-02 L-03 AGR-05 SSO-00

INRE-00 SAJ-01 USIE-00 /074 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV :JTREICHEL:KR

APPROVED BY EUR: J;ARMITAGE

EUR/SOV - MGARRISON

C - JMONTGOMERY

E - RPOATS S/S-MR REDDY

EB/MA - CTAYLOR

MARAD - HCASEY

S/PRS - FBROWN

S/PRS - JTRATTNER

S/IL - DGOOD (SUBSTANCE)

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O 182317Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 205738

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEWT, UR, US, EWW, ELAB

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATIONS PROTEST SOVIET NON-FULFILLMENT OF
MARITIME AGREEMENT

1. DEMONSTRATIONS PROTESTING SOVIET FAILURE TO FULFILL
CARGO-SHARING PROVISIONS OF US-USSR MARITIME AGREEMENT WERE
HELD AT FEDERAL BUILDINGS IN A NUMBER OF US PORT CITIES
AUGUST 17. DEMONSTRATORS COMPLAINED SOVIETS DELIBERATELY
EVADING MARITIME AGREEMENT PROVISIONS WHICH STIPULATE THAT
US-FLAG SHIPS SHALL CARRY ONE-THIRD OF BILATERAL CARGOES,
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FOCUSING PARTICULARLY ON FACT THAT OF 360,000 TONS OF GRAIN

TO BE MOVED IN AUGUST, US-FLAG SHIPS GOT NONE. DEMONSTRATORS CRITICIZED STATE DEPARTMENT FOR NOT INSISTING UPON STRICT SOVIET OBSERVANCE OF MARITIME AGREEMENT. PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY ORGANIZERS OF DEMONSTRATIONS INDICATES THEY WERE STAGED BY THE 'COMMITTEE OF AMERICAN-FLAG SHIPPING COMPANIES' AND THE 'AFL-CIO MARITIME WORKERS,' BOTH OF WHICH ARE UNKNOWN TO DEPARTMENT. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS DEMONSTRATORS NUMBERED NO MORE THAN A SEVERAL HUNDRED IN ANY ONE CITY.

2. IN RESPONDING TO QUERIES AT NOON BRIEFING AUGUST 17, DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN STATED THAT US SHARE OF GRAIN CARGOES THUS FAR THIS YEAR THROUGH JULY 31 IS ABOUT 26 PERCENT.

HE ALSO STATED THAT OUR AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW HAS PROTESTED TO THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT OVER THIS ISSUE AND THAT WE HAVE MADE A NUMBER OF OTHER SIMILAR REPRESENTATIONS. DEPT SPOKESMAN ALSO SUMMARIZED BENEFITS TO US MERCHANT FLEET FROM THE MARITIME AGREEMENT. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION CONCERNING WHAT RECOURSE US HAS, IF SOVIETS CONTINUE TO FAIL TO COMPLY WITH AGREEMENT, HE CITED TERMINATION PROVISION IN AGREEMENT, BUT ADDED THAT THE AGREEMENT, IF LIVED UP TO, IS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL AND THAT IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES THAT IT REMAIN IN FORCE. THAT, HE SAID, IS OUR OBJECTIVE.

3. PRESS COVERAGE MODERATE, WITH WASHINGTON POST, BALTIMORE SUN, WALL STREET JOURNAL, AND JOURNAL OF COMMERCE CARRYING STORIES AUGUST 18 ON INSIDE PAGES. AP ALSO CARRIED ITEM IN ITS AUGUST 17 NATIONAL FILE. PRESS STORIES HIGHLIGHTED USG ACTIONS TO RESOLVE CARGO-SHARING ISSUE, INCLUDING PROTEST NOTE, AS WELL AS COMPLAINTS OF DEMONSTRATORS.

4. IF QUERIED BY SOVIET GOVERNMENT, EMBASSY SHOULD RESPOND FACTUALLY THAT DEMONSTRATIONS STIMULATED PRESS TO QUERY DEPT WHETHER SOVIETS ARE VIOLATING MARITIME AGREEMENT. DEPT PROVIDED INFORMATION IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC PRESS QUERIES. REQUEST EMBASSY REFER ALL PRESS INQUIRIES ON THIS ISSUE TO DEPT.

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5. DEPT POUCHING COPIES OF PRESS GUIDANCE AND PRESS STORIES TO EMBASSY. KISSINGER

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